From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC

To: Lilley, Bliss; cc: Collins, Carly; FW: Capx 2020 EIS Subject:

Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:33:54 AM

From: thesacketthouse@yahoo.com [mailto:thesacketthouse@yahoo.com]

Sent: Monday, June 29, 2009 4:24 PM To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC

Subject: Capx 2020 EIS

TO:

Stephanie Strength **Environmental Protection Specialist** USDA, Rural Utilities Service Engineering and Environmental Staff 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 1571 Washington, DC 20250-1571

stephanie.strength@usda.gov

(202) 720-0468

PLEASE ADD THIS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD REGARDING **SCOPING FOR EIS!** 

Dear Stephanie,

Thank you so much for your time I really appreciate know that someone is looking out for us because this has been a long battle that has felt like it has fallen on deaf ears. Thanks again in advance for reading this.

I-105-001

This scoping is for the Brookings to Hampton line as well right? Why would one line get a National EIS but not the others? They can not begin construction until the EIS is complete correct? I am still somewhat unclear as to how the scoping process and the EIS work. I am thankful that the EIS is being taken more seriously on a National level. I understand that the state is there to listen to citizens concerns, and from there it goes into the EIS.

**I-105-002** Here is where I need clarification. If and when there are specific concerns, such as the bee keepers, who's responsibility is it to make sure the appropriate amount of research is done on that particular topic? If you found a report that said that it has some link to the collapse of the colony, do you

### I-105-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. Dairyland Power Cooperative, one of the CapX2020 utilities, has requested financial assistance from USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for Dairyland's anticipated 11 percent ownership interest in the proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kilovolt transmission line project. RUS has determined that its funding of Dairyland's ownership interest is a federal action and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). RUS is the lead agency for both NEPA and Section 106 review.

Scoping is a process that provides information to those preparing an EIS. The EIS examines the comments received from scoping with the requirements for an analysis of the proposed action with possible resource impacts. Detailed information regarding the EIS process can be found at INSERT WEB page.

An EIS must be finalized with a Record of Decision published before any project-related activities can occur. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at:

http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

### I-105-002

Your comment has been noted. RUS is the responsible federal agent for the completion of the EIS for this project. The ability to make an informed decision regarding the potential impact on any given resources is dependent on the level of research for any particular resource topic based on existing information and the potential project impacts. Activities such as public scoping allow others to share information that can contribute to the analysis of the proposed project.

research further to find out more? What if you find three reports that say they can't "prove it" but they is definitely a some risks or concerns. Is that considered not scientific enough to look at relocating the route for her?

My other question is related to specific people and the route. The state would like people to write in with their concerns that should be included in the EIS. So for me example, I have extremely dry skin and currently get shocked almost every time I get in my vehicle. I am afraid it will happen more often or be more intense if these lines went near my home. Does the state look at my specific address if they deem this a plausible cause, and put in for considerations for it to go somewhere else?

I-105-005

My concerns with this are if people don't understand or know about writing to you that they wouldn't be able to share their concerns. If the route is moved then you have a whole new group of people who may have concerns that are not mentioned. Will they have the same amount of time to add things to the EIS? Will there be additional Scoping meetings if it moved?

I-105-008

At the meetings I met someone who has a neighbor who provides equestrian camps for people with disabilities. I have great concerns because the purposed route will go directly over where they ride. I believe horses would be sensitive to the EMF's and I am sure they would get spooked with the I-105-007 | slightest shock. The other concern is that many people with disabilities have extremely sensitive sensory systems and can be bother by things that the average person may not be aware of. Do you need her specific name and address to make sure the line does not go near her business? What if she doesn't know or feels scared to contact you? Would her situation be missed until it is too late? or would all of sudden the power lines end up in someone else's yard with less than 2 weeks notice like the MN CAN oil pipeline?

> It was stated that people could ask questions as well as concerns at the public meetings. Yet when technical questions that were relevant to the scoping for the EIS were asked, the State nor GRE had answers. Responses were such that Scott Ek and Craig Poorker are not "lawyers or electrically engineers". And when questions were asked regarding the Cert. of Need side of the project. The questions were not answered because the certificate of need is in it's final stages. If the public needs more information about this project

# I-105-003

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-105-003.

# I-105-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The RUS does not have jurisdiction over the State of Minnesota Certificate of Need evaluations or content of those proceedings.

# I-105-005

Your letter/comment card has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available at: http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line. The utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

Dairyland Power Cooperative, one of the CapX2020 utilities, has requested financial assistance from USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for Dairyland's anticipated 11 percent ownership interest in the proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kilovolt transmission line project. RUS has determined that its funding of Dairyland's ownership interest is a federal action and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). RUS is the lead agency for both NEPA and Section 106 **Extractionarity Control and proposed the Control of the Control o** 

### I-105-006

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and

**I-105-009** why won't more meetings be held? If the state is truly concerned and looking out for the citizens why are rote answers given such as "that is what the state requires" cut and dry.

A suggestion for future is to have an expert from each area lawyers, electrical engineers, and so on to answer the questions that come up. People can not express their concerns if they do not fully understand the project. I am concerned about the liability of these lines if someone to get injured from them. I contacted my insurance agent and his response was that it depends on the terms that were agree upon. I am sure GRE/Excel all ready have their standard policy in place. I would like it brought out into the open now, so there is time to research it and learn about it to protect ourselves and property.

I have met several people who are on the same line as myself and I would like to name a few of the issues that I feel you should know about:

there is a fireworks business on a portion of the proposed route where no alternate route is offered.

there is a women who keeps bees for a living and they have been in her family for generations.

there is the women who offers horseback riding to people with disabilities. there is a family that has a major natural gas line going through their property.

there is a farmer who land has been in his family for almost 100 years and they put a oil pipeline right through the middle of it last year. there is a farmer who raises organic dairy cows.

there are people who bought there properties without a power line on it that don't want one now!

there are concerns about stray voltage, EMF's, etc. even having the smallest everyone should be able to decide what risks chance for health issues, they want to take in life

property values will decline on properties with the lines and they will be limited to buyers if they decided to sell after the lines are erected. mortgage companies are considering not giving loans to properties with major power lines on them.

property values will decline for the adjacent properties and they will not be receiving any kind of monetary compensation for this lose.

livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

# I-105-007

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

### I-105-008

The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

The scoping comment period is now closed, however this is not the last opportunity to comment on the project. The Draft Environmental Impact Statementwill be available at:

http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

### I-105-009

The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available at: http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication. We anticiapte that public meetings will be held during the public review and comment period for the Draft EIS.

# I-105-010

the lines will be directly over school bus stops.

well drilling companies can not drive equipment near these lines

Minnesota has a buy the farm act stating that if a line 220 kv or higher is put
on your property you can sell your entire property to the project (GRE/
Excel)

the current eminent domain laws exempt public service corporations. GRE is not considered to be a public

service corp. but Excel is.

there are concerns about rare species of animals and birds that will have power lines going right through their habitat.

cement foots will be 40-50 feet deep. could the cement leach into the water supply of wells or rivers.

one community has clay lined water treatment pools. how far away would the drilling have to be to ensure — the earth would not shift and crack them? these lines were "advertised" to be for wind, not mentioning that a brand new coal plant was being built just — across the SD boarder (BIG STONE II) now Capx says we never said that this was for wind, what else — will come up and they can go back on there word (false advertising)?

the height of the lines will only be 35 feet off the ground during peak usage. I am sure there are more things that I can't think of right now. Please feel free to contact me if you need any clarification or more information. Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely, Nancy and Jon Sackett 25870 Freeborn Ave New Prague, MN 56071 952-758-9734 thesacketthouse@vahoo.com Your comment has been noted. Liability regarding aspects of the project is unknown at this time.